

The Emerging Roles for Peer Staff in Drug Courts

SAMHSA'S GAINS Center
for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation

November 14, 2013

12PM-1PM EDT

Facilitator & Presenters



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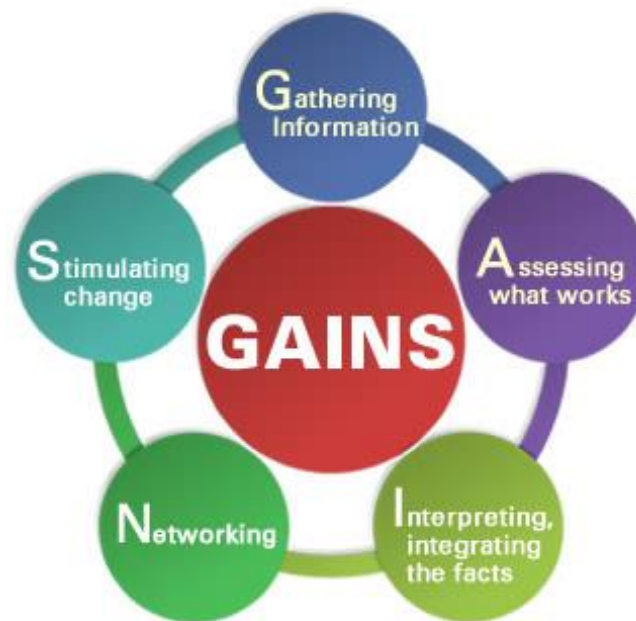


Overview of SAMHSA's GAINS Center



- Since 1995 operated by Policy Research Associates
- Provides technical assistance to SAMHSA funded programs and the field
- Focus on expanding access to community based services for adults diagnosed with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders at all points of involvement with the criminal justice system
- Special focus on fully integrating peers and peer operated programs in all program activities including planning and implementation, service delivery and evaluation





Adult Treatment Court Collaborative (ATCC)



- SAMHSA funded grant program
- 11 grantees
- Goal of the grants is to assist state and local courts offer treatment and recovery supports to justice involved individuals with behavioral health disorders
- Promotes collaboration and cooperation between treatment courts and providers
- Encourages flexibility and innovation





SAMHSA's GAINS Center

for

Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation

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Emerging Roles for Peer Staff in Drug Courts

ATCC/JDTR Webinar

November 14, 2013

Eau Claire County Treatment Courts Collaborative

- Four courts
 - ❑ Drug
 - ❑ Alternatives to Incarcerating Mothers (AIM)
 - ❑ Mental Health
 - ❑ Veterans
- Goals
 - ❑ Improve public safety
 - ❑ Improve behavioral health of participants
 - ❑ Use justice system resources wisely

Why Incorporate Peer Staff?

- Initially
 - Seen as a way to provide support to clinical Coordinators/Case Managers
 - Provide transportation/attend appointments, monitor sobriety/compliance and maintain detailed documentation
- Eventually
 - Viewed as way to empower participants to attain long-term recovery in a very individualized manner
 - Address the priorities of the participant rather than the program

Eau Claire County Recovery Coaches

- Primary purpose: help individuals achieve and maintain recovery (AODA and/or MH)
- Two (2) contracted positions
- Grant-funded
 - Adult Treatment Courts Collaborative (SAMHSA)
 - Male/serves men
 - Treatment Alternative Program (TAP)
 - Female/serves women

Training and Orientation

- 40-hour Recovery Coach Academy
- Recovery Coach Manual
 - Details training and orientation requirements.
Examples:
 - Motivational Interviewing
 - Trauma-Informed Care
 - Observation at staffings and court sessions
 - Job shadowing (understand different roles in the court)
 - Meeting with judges
- Recovery Coach Certification (future)

Points of Referral

- Upon admission to a treatment court
 - ❑ Recovery Coach introduces self to participant at first court session practicable
- Upon recommendation by the Coordinator/Case Manager
- Upon subsequent request by participant
- Upon recommendation of the treatment court team
- Upon request of the treatment court team

Service Cycle

- Initial Meeting
- Intake
 - ☐ Complete paperwork
 - ☐ Introduce Recovery Capital Scale and Plan
 - ☐ Explain expectations
 - ☐ Review evaluation tools
- Regular recovery check-ins
- Monday morning phone calls
- Discharge process

Benefits of a Recovery Coach

- Focus on recovery rather than compliance
- Provide one more level of support
 - ❑ Participants often don't have a lot of healthy people in their lives
- Model hope, health and a pro-social lifestyle



Challenges

- Different visions
 - Who is the RC serving primarily (participant or team)?
- Buy-in/Trust
 - Participants
 - Team members
- Boundaries
 - What is/is not appropriate for the Recovery Coach?

Questions to Consider

- To be (or not to be) part of the court team?
 - ❑ How will this impact the Recovery Coach's relationship with the participant? Team members?
- Who determines what the RC does each day?
 - ❑ Who supervises/provides direction?
- What can be kept confidential? What cannot?
 - ❑ What happens if a person discloses substance use or other rules violations? Other significant concerns?
- Is participation voluntary or mandatory?

Eau Claire County Approach

- Recovery Coaches do not:
 - ❑ Attend weekly staffings
 - ❑ Administer drug tests or report results
 - ❑ Monitor rules compliance
- Recovery Coaches do:
 - ❑ Meet with Coordinators on a weekly basis
 - ❑ Problem-solve and build trust
 - ❑ Ask participants to develop goals and tasks to promote recovery and help as requested
 - ❑ Respond to requests for assistance (e.g., transportation) from Coordinators as time allows

Lessons Learned

- Define expectations before starting program and educate team members
 - ☐ Direction
 - Who provides this? Who resolves conflicts?
 - ☐ Duties
 - What is/isn't the responsibility of the Recovery Coach?
 - ☐ Documentation
 - How much is needed? How much is too much?
- Provide support

Contact Information

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31ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT DRUG COURT PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST

What is a Peer Recovery Specialist?

- Individual with current or past lived experience
- Individual who has had experience with the criminal justice system
- Individual who can relate to both the participant and staff
- Individual who can be objective without compromising treatment or requirements

WHY HAVE A PEER SPECIALIST, ADDED VALUE?

- Drug Court staff needs to be able to relate to participants
- Drug Court staff needs to be able to close the gap between criminal justice system treatment, and participant
- Drug Court staff needs to think outside the box

Obstacles to Overcome

- Mind set of Drug Court Team
- Peer Specialist's feelings of intimidation
- Making feel part of the Drug Court Team
- Acceptance from Participants
- Trust factor
- Hiring policy

Training of Peer Specialist

- Incorporate into position slowly
- Certification
- On the job training
- Cross train
- Incorporate into learning criminal justice system

Recruitment of Peer Specialist

- Start with your Drug Court graduates
- Look at treatment facilities
- Network with other Drug Courts

Role of Peer Specialist

- Define roles early
- Peer Specialist role is to bridge the gap between criminal justice system and participant
- Earn the trust of participant
- Maintain a professional atmosphere

Future

- Drug Court Team's need to understand more about addiction
- Drug Court Team's need to be able to relate to participants
- Drug Court Team's need to think outside the box

My Personal Journey

- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Criminal Justice System
- Graduate from the Drug Court Program
- Continued to work in the Recovery Community

Peer Case Management

- What Was it Like for Me?
- What were some of the challenges I faced?
- What is my relationship with my colleagues now?

Training and Knowledge

- Training
- Task
- Skills
- Resources

Job Duties

- Case management
- Supervised drug screens
- Documentation
- Facilitate “Living in Balance” peer support groups
- One on one sessions
- Referral source
- Help others embrace recovery in his/her own lives
- Role model wellness and recovery

What is my relationship like with my peers?

- Hope
- Trust
- Role model
- Empathy
- Encourage
- Service work
- Empower
- Confidentiality
- Understanding

“I’m glad drug court has Marianne, it helps because she has been where we are” Drug Court Participant